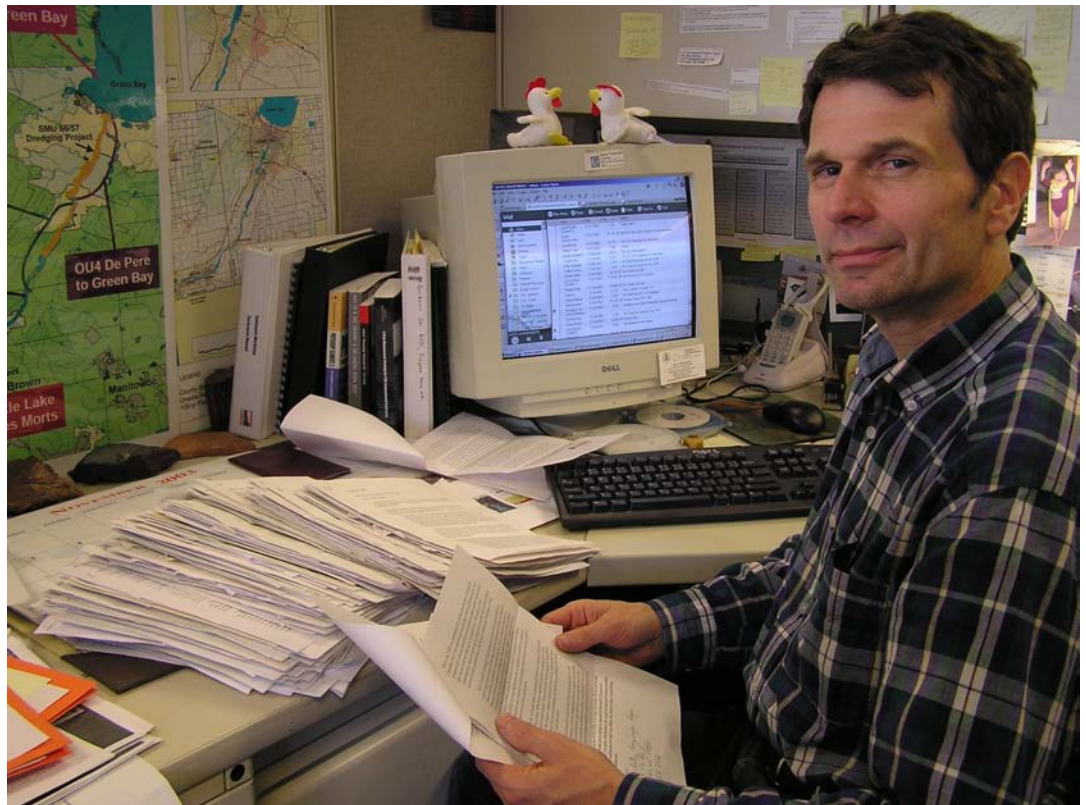


## EPA, DNR Hear From Vinland Residents

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

More than 150 residents from the town of Vinland have written to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and federal elected officials concerning the use of a local landfill to deposit sediment from the Little Lake Butte des Morts section of the Lower Fox River cleanup.

The cleanup, set to begin next year, involves dredging PCB-contaminated sediment, squeezing the water out and taking the sediment to a local landfill for permanent disposal. Since the decision on the final cleanup plan was made in January, Georgia-Pacific, one of the companies responsible for the river cleanup, has proposed using a landfill that it owns in Vinland to hold the sediment. DNR and EPA are evaluating that proposal. Residents' letters are asking that the record of decision, the document outlining the cleanup, be amended to allow the use of a method called "vitrification" rather than landfiling. Although vitrification may be possible for other sections of the river, it is not an option for Little Lake Butte des Morts.



*EPA Fox River Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg looks over the many letters received from Vinland residents regarding the proposed use of a local landfill.*

"It (vitrification) has less certainty of working as opposed to landfiling," according to Jim Hahnenberg, EPA remedial project manager. "There are too many assumptions. We are assuming that we would have a large construction project for a relatively small project. Also, we have never done this as a full-scale project, so potentially, it could take us longer to complete just because it has never been done before."

*See Vinland, Page 5*

# Historic Survey Recommends More Studies

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

A study on possible effects to cultural resources in and near the Lower Fox River advises that more archaeological and architectural surveys be done.

The study, called a Stage IA Cultural Resources Survey, identified historic sites, districts, shipwrecks and standing structures and buildings that are on, or may be eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with support from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, asked U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do the study so the agencies will be aware of area archaeological sites that could be affected by their cleanup plan for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay. Although DNR is considered the "lead" agency for the Lower Fox River project, federal agencies are responsible for beginning the historic consultation process.

The study covered 206 square miles. It extended two miles from both banks of the entire 39-mile segment of the river from the mouth at Green Bay to the southern end of Little Lake Butte des Morts in Neenah. It identified 276 sites with 93 of them already on the National Register of Historic Places. Another 167 are eligible for such listing. According to the National Historic Preservation Act, the law that requires this study, negative effects to historic buildings, structures or districts must be found and plans to avoid direct contact during cleanup be put in place. Because so many sites could be affected by the cleanup, further surveys are needed.

According to EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg, who has been working closely with the Army Corps on this project, there is still work to be done. "Once we have things more precisely defined in the design for the river cleanup, we would need to take a closer look at properties near where we will be working," he said.

Based on intense literature reviews, analyses of documents from the state historic preservation officer and local sources, and personal interviews, EPA should continue to lead more surveys, field work and historic research while incorporating the results into cleanup plans as they are designed and developed.

"Our first choice would be to see if we could avoid any negative effects by relocating our efforts," Hahnenberg continued. "We could also compensate the public for lost resources by replacing them."

The Army Corps contacted 140 groups as part of its research. The final list included 12 historical societies, 22 government agencies, seven museums, 31 Native American tribes or nations, eight tribal historic preservation officers, 27 universities and 20 other individuals.

According to Army Corps District Archaeologist Karen Krepps, these groups were important to the study. "They were contacted as interested parties and were helpful by providing useful information and documents," she explained.

The report is available for review at the information repositories listed on Page 7 and on EPA's Web site: [www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver).



*The Stage IA Cultural Resources Survey involved extensive research using local history books and literature.*

*Starting with this issue, the Fox River Current will feature updates on cleanup and restoration activities that are planned and ongoing.*

# Technical Update . . .

## Work Begins in Little Lake Butte des Morts

By Greg Swanson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

### Little Lake Butte des Morts

- Preliminary design work for the cleanup of Little Lake Butte des Morts, also known as Operable Unit 1, has been underway since an agreement with WTM I was announced earlier this year.
- Surveying work and the placement of markers along the shoreline have been completed.
- The first phase of sediment sampling has been completed and the samples are being analyzed.
- Contractors have been looking at potential sites for on-shore equipment staging.
- The paper companies have had discussions with Neenah and Menasha officials about working together on the cleanup.



*Sediment samples were taken this fall from Little Lake Butte des Morts.*

### Remaining three sections of the river and Green Bay

- Surveying work and the installation of permanent survey markers are in progress for the remainder of the river and Green Bay, also known as Operable Units 2-5.
- Aerial photography has been completed and maps are being made from those photos.
- A preliminary utility survey is underway to identify the numerous utility crossings of the Fox River. The information gathered from area utilities and businesses such as sewerage districts, water and power utilities, telephone companies, pipeline companies and the department of transportation will be used during the design of the cleanup.

### Natural Resource Damage Assessment

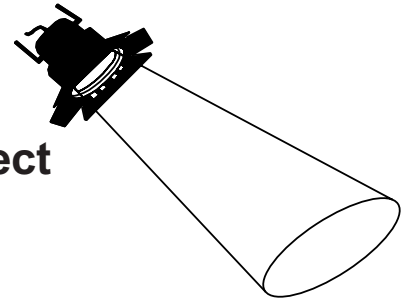
- Technical staff representing the natural resource trustees have been meeting and prioritizing proposed restoration projects to recommend to its five-member board (trustee council).
- More than 50 projects have been submitted by trustees and potential partners. Costs for qualifying projects exceed the amount of available funding. Currently, the only funds available for these projects are from the 2001 interim agreement with Appleton Papers Inc. and NCR Corp. As more agreements are reached, more projects can be funded.



*The Fox River Current is featuring promising natural resource damage assessment projects in and near the Lower Fox River.*

# Spotlight On:

## South Bay Marina Habitat Enhancement Project



By Tom Nelson, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and its partner Walleyes for Tomorrow have created more than two acres of natural homes (habitat) for spawning walleye and other predatory fish near the mouth of the Fox River.

The project was completed this past summer after an agreement was signed with the owner of the recently opened South Bay Marina in Green Bay. Habitat will be developed through the use of two 300-foot-long parallel, serpentine-like devices to naturally sort sediment as it flows by.

This innovative project will result in more walleye in the area. Shallow water habitat for other fish and amphibians will also see some improvement. The shoreline in the area was historically shallow, but the shallow water habitat was greatly diminished when a dike was built to create the steep shoreline that exists today after a 1973 storm flooded the area. Over time, the availability of shallow water will be increased to help restore historic habitat.

George Boronow, DNR basin manager and project coordinator, believes that projects such as this are an important part of the restoration of the Green Bay ecosystem. "This project complements the spawning habitat projects DNR has completed in the Lower Fox River and is an excellent example of the type of restoration the natural resource trustees want to see," he said.

Local anglers seem to support this project. Dave Van Auken, who enjoys fishing in the Fox River and in



*Local angler Dave Van Auken holds up a couple of walleye he recently caught near the mouth of the Lower Fox River.*

Green Bay, said, "Local fishing opportunities are on the decline and anything the trustees can do to improve the local fishery opportunities is great."

While the project is supported by the community, it is also consistent with two of the four natural resource damage assessment goals, aquatic and near shore habitat improvement and fishery enhancement.

Projects like this, which are done in partnership with local governments, conservation groups and other agencies allow, the trustees to develop restoration projects that address local issues. The trustees

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*See Spotlight, Page 5*

**Spotlight from Page 4**

encourage all local organizations to contact members of the technical team with other possible projects for restoration of the Fox River/Green Bay ecosystem.

The natural resource trustees are comprised of DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For further information on NRDA projects, contact Trustee Council Coordinator Colette Charbonneau, FWS, at [Colette\\_Charbonneau@fws.gov](mailto:Colette_Charbonneau@fws.gov) or at (920) 866-1726.

**Vinland from Page 1**

At press time, the agencies had not changed their decision to use the Georgia-Pacific landfill. In a letter responding to those who wrote to DNR, EPA, U.S. Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold and Congressman Tom Petri, it was explained that PCBs are not a health concern when placed in a landfill. The pathway from sediment to people and wildlife is eliminated when PCBs are removed from an aquatic system, in this case the Lower Fox River.

According to Len Polczynski, DNR waste supervisor, after Georgia-Pacific sends some additional information to him, the application to use the landfill can be deemed complete. Then, a public comment period and meeting will be announced. "The public needs to have access to the same information we have," he explained.

Polczynski added that he will work with town of Vinland officials to select a convenient time, date and place for the meeting.

Once the application is completed, it will be available for review at the information repositories listed on Page 7 and in the Vinland town hall. DNR cannot approve or deny the application until the comment period ends.

**Out and About...**

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership, made up of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, regularly provides speakers to organizations in the Fox Valley area. The following partners recently made presentations:

**November**

- ◆ *Tom Nelson, Oneida and Colette Charbonneau, FWS: Green Bay Duck Hunters Association, Green Bay; Lower Fox River/Green Bay restoration plan and how to submit a proposal.*



*More than 150 letters from town of Vinland residents were sent to EPA, DNR and federal elected officials regarding a proposal to use a local landfill.*

# Profile On . . . Len Polczynski

## DNR Manager Never Stops Working

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

It seems like Len Polczynski, regional waste program manager for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, never stops working.

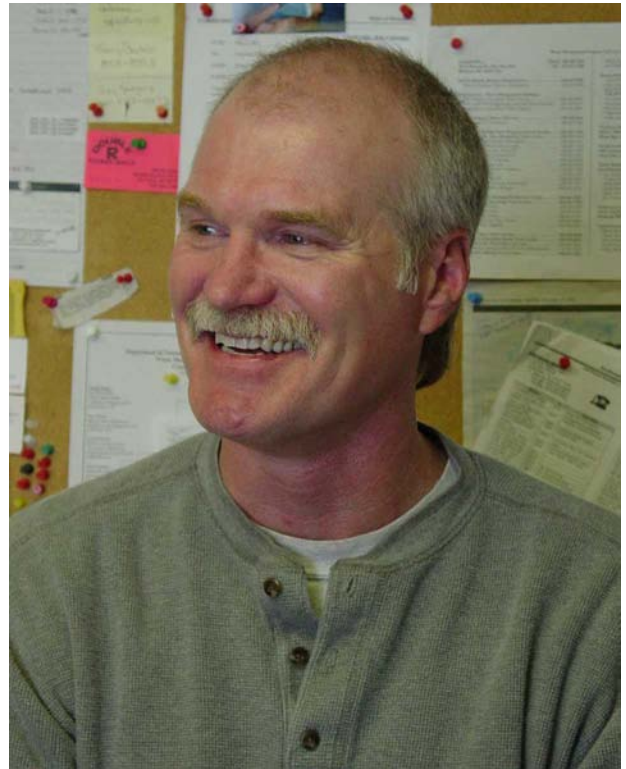
Polczynski, 52, spends his weekdays in DNR's north-east regional office in Green Bay working on the Lower Fox River's landfill permitting issues. His evenings and weekends are spent remodeling homes. "It's in my blood," he said. "I come from a long line of carpenters."

Although the Green Bay native does a lot of room additions, he specializes in home saunas. "I built saunas for the YMCAs in Green Bay and several saunas for a motel chain headquartered in Saukville," he continued.

Thanks to his carpentry skills, Polczynski, who lives in Seymour with his wife Judy, was able to put himself through college and land a job 22 years ago with his daytime employer. His bachelor's degree in regional land-use planning and masters in natural resources management from University of Wisconsin in Green Bay and Stevens Point respectively, lead him to DNR.

Starting as a grant coordinator and moving to a solid waste specialist and later a hazardous waste specialist, Polczynski, gained experience in several areas. He has responded to complaints, inspected landfills and industrial waste handling practices, and provided technical assistance. Today, he supervises a staff of 12—some of whom review landfill plans in relation to the Lower Fox River.

Although Polczynski has not been continuously involved in the Lower Fox River project, he is an important part of the team. Polczynski has been



*Len Polczynski*

overseeing the permit application process for the Georgia-Pacific landfill in the town of Vinland. "I'm involved because it's a landfill, Georgia-Pacific is in Green Bay, and Winnebago County where Vinland is located is among the 16 counties we cover," he explained. "I handle some of the politics, field lots of calls from the public, meet with Georgia-Pacific and Vinland officials, and do other behind-the-scenes activities."

Polczynski was also involved in disposal matters during the Lower Fox River demonstration projects, Deposit N and 56/57, of the late 1990s. He will also assist with landfill disposal, as necessary, for the DePere to Green Bay section of the cleanup.

*See Profile, Page 7*

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**Profile from Page 6**

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Polczynski said he enjoys the challenges that come with the Lower Fox River and other high-profile projects. He reflected on a company called "Clean Soils." "This was a company that had mobile soil roasters," he said. "They were prosecuted because they weren't operating within the conditions of their permits. It took a lot of time because they had several operations in the state."

As a supervisor, he is sometimes asked to do what sounds like the impossible. "Balancing politics with environmental protection is a big part of the job," he continued. "I'm open minded and strive for fairness with the regulated community, but I'm committed to protecting human health and the environment."

Impossible, maybe. Enjoyable, definitely. "I like the people I work with and their professionalism and commitment to the environment," he concluded. "We work together as a team and it has gotten us through numerous challenges."

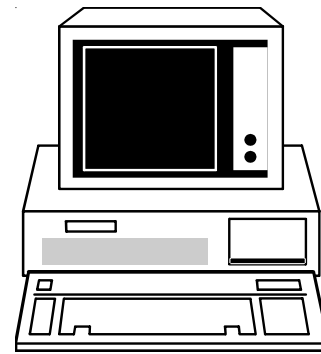
**Check out these Web sites:**

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/lowerfox/>

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver/>

<http://www.fws.gov/r9dec/nrdar/nrdamain.html>

<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/nrda/>

**Information Available at Local Libraries**

The Intergovernmental Partners invite the public to review technical reports, fact sheets and other documents related to the Lower Fox River cleanup at information repositories set up in the reference sections of the following local libraries. Information repositories at the public libraries in DePere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Neenah and Wrightstown have been discontinued. However, binders containing fact sheets will be maintained at these locations as well as at the repositories listed below.

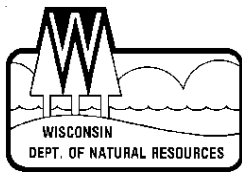
- **Appleton Public Library**, 225 N. Oneida St., Appleton, Wis.; (920) 832-6170
- **Brown County Library**, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, Wis.; (920) 448-4381, Ext. 394
- **Door County Library**, 107 S. Fourth Ave., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; (920) 743-6578
- **Oneida Community Library**, 201 Elm St., Oneida, Wis.; (920) 869-2210
- **Oshkosh Public Library**, 106 Washington Ave., Oshkosh, Wis.; (920) 236-5200



*An administrative record, which contains detailed information upon which the selection of the final site cleanup plans were based, is also available for review at two DNR offices: 801 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, Wis. and 101 S. Webster St., 3rd Floor, Madison, Wis. An administrative record is also available at the EPA Record Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 7th Floor, Chicago, Ill.*

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Prepared by the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Supporting agencies include Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by all members of the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership.

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